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Provisional summary record of the 48th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 15 December 2006, at 4 p.m.

President: Mr. Hachani ..... (Tunisia)

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The meeting was called to order at 4.20 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

1. **The President** said that he had just met with the Secretary-General-designate, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, and had given him an overview of the Council's activities, including the new functions assigned to it by the 2005 World Summit. Mr. Ban had stressed the high priority he attached to the field of development and information cooperation as well as his personal commitment to working closely with the Council.

Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies: draft annex relating to the World Tourism Organization (E/2006/70)

2. **The President** said that he took it that the Council wished to defer consideration of the item until its organizational session of 2007.

3. *It was so decided.*

(c) Participation of intergovernmental organizations in the work of the Economic and Social Council (*continued*) (E/2006/21, 87)

4. **Mr. Mally** (United States of America) recalled that his delegation had requested further information on the functions, structure and operations of the International Emergency Management Organization.

5. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Council) said that the Secretariat was ready to oblige.

6. **The President** said that he took it that the Council wished to defer consideration of the organization's application for observer status.

7. *It was so decided.*

8. **The President** said that he took it that the Council wished to take note of the withdrawal by the secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of its application for observer status.

9. *It was so decided.*

(a) Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments (*continued*)

Commission on Population and Development

10. **The President** said that the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States had endorsed Grenada and Honduras to fill its two outstanding vacancies on the Commission on Population and Development. He took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed, for a four-year term beginning at the Commission's forty-first session and expiring at the close of its forty-fourth session.

11. *It was so decided.*

12. **The President** said that he took it that the Council agreed to further defer the election of one member from the Group of Asian States and one member from the Group of Western European and Other States, for the same four-year term.

13. *It was so decided.*

Commission on Science and Technology for Development

14. **The President** said that the Group of Western European and Other States had endorsed Belgium and Turkey to fill its two outstanding vacancies on the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. He took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed, for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2007.

15. *It was so decided.*

16. **The President**, recalling that the Council had decided to enlarge the Commission's membership, said that the modalities for electing ten new members had yet to be finalized. Those elections were expected to take place in early 2007.

Executive Board of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

17. **The President** said that the Group of Western European and Other States had endorsed Israel to fill its vacant seat on the Executive Board of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women. Similarly, the Group of Asian States had endorsed the Philippines and the Syrian Arab Republic to fill its two outstanding vacancies. He thus took it that the Council wished to elect those candidates by acclamation.

18. *It was so decided.*

19. **The President** said that that he took it that the Council agreed to further defer the election of two members from the Group of African States and two members from the Group of Eastern European States. They would be elected for three-year terms beginning on 1 January 2007.

20. *It was so decided.*

Committee for the United Nations Population Award

21. **The President** said that Lesotho had been endorsed by the Group of African States to fill one of its three seats. Malaysia had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States and the Czech Republic by the Group of Eastern European States, each to fill a remaining vacancy. He took it that the Council wished to elect those members by acclamation, for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2007.

22. *It was so decided.*

23. **The President** said that he also took it that the Council agreed to further defer the election of two members from the Group of African States.

24. *It was so decided.*

Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

25. **The President** said that Italy had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States to fill that Group's remaining vacancy on the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme. He took it that the Council wished to elect that member by acclamation, for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2007.

26. *It was so decided.*

27. **The President** said that he further took it that the Council wished to postpone the election of three members from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

28. *It was so decided.*

29. **The President** recalled that a vacancy remained from 2005 on the Governing Council for one member from the Group of Asian States, for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2008. To date, no candidature had been received.

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/2006/9/Add.21)

30. **The President** invited the Council to fill a vacancy arising from the resignation of Mr. Giorgio Malinverni of Switzerland. The Government of Switzerland had nominated Ms. Barbara Wilson to replace him. He drew attention to the biographical information contained in document E/2006/9/Add.21. He took it that the Council wished to elect Ms. Wilson, by acclamation, to complete the unexpired portion of Mr. Malinverni's term of office.

31. *It was so decided.*

Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (E/2006/9/Add.20)

32. **The President** said that Mr. Yoshiki Takeuchi of Japan and Mr. Talmon de Paula Freitas of Brazil had resigned from the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters. The Secretary-General had decided to appoint Mr. Nobuyuki Nakamura and Mr. Eduardo Zaidensztat Capnnikcas to replace Mr. Takeuchi and Mr. Freitas respectively. The relevant biographical information was contained in document E/2006/9/Add.20. He took it that the Council wished to take note of those appointments.

33. *It was so decided.*

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund

34. **The President** said that Sweden was resigning its seat on the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, effective 1 January 2007. He took it that the Council wished to elect Denmark to replace Sweden, for a term beginning on 1 January 2007 and expiring on 31 December 2009.

35. *It was so decided.*

Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission

36. **The President** said that the Czech Republic had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States and Indonesia had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States to fill two of the three upcoming vacancies on the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission. He took it that the Council

wished to elect by acclamation the Czech Republic and to re-elect Indonesia for terms beginning on 1 January 2007 and expiring on 22 June 2008 and to defer the election of one member from the Group of Western European and Other States.

37. *It was so decided.*

Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(a) Sustainable development (*continued*)

Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its eighth session (E/2006/33, chap. I, sect. A, recommendations I and II) *and draft decision E/2006/L.38*

38. **Mr. Mérorès** (Haiti) drew attention to draft decision E/2006/L.38 calling for action on recommendation I contained in the report of the Committee for Development Policy (E/2006/33), that Papua New Guinea should be included in the list of least developed countries, should be deferred to the high-level segment of the 2007 substantive session of the Council.

39. *Draft decision E/2006/L.38 was adopted.*

40. **The President** said that he took it that the Council also wished to defer consideration of recommendation II (that Samoa should be graduated from the list) to its organizational session of 2007.

41. *It was so decided.*

(b) Science and technology for development (*continued*)

Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its ninth session (E/2006/31, chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution)

42. **Mr. Čekuolis** (Lithuania) said that following informal consultations, it had been agreed that the Council should defer to its organizational session of 2007 consideration of the draft resolution contained in the report.

Draft decision E/2006/L.39: Enlargement of the Commission on Science and Technology

43. **The President** said that the draft decision had no programme budget implications.

44. *Draft decision E/2006/L.39 was adopted.*

45. **The President** said that he took it that the Council wished to defer consideration of remaining matters relating to the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development until its organizational session of 2007.

46. *It was so decided.*

Social and human rights questions (*continued*)

(h) Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (*continued*)

Recommendations contained in the report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its fifth session (E/2006/43, chap. I, sect. A, draft decisions; E/2006/L.18)

47. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Council) said that at its 41st meeting, during its substantive session, the Secretary of the Council had made a statement on the programme budget implications of draft decisions I and III, contained in the report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its fifth session (E/2006/43) concluding that additional requirements relating to decision I could be reduced from $87,300 to $58,000 and total requirements relating to draft decisions I and III could be reduced from $577,700 to $548,400. As the Council had decided, in its decision 2006/243, to defer consideration of the report, the Secretariat had further reviewed the potential for absorption of the additional requirements in relation to draft decision I. The $58,000 could in fact be met through potential savings in the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, under the current total appropriation for the travel of members of all policymaking organs under section 9, "Economic and social affairs", owing, inter alia, to non-participation, partial participation and delays. It was thus estimated that draft decision I would not entail any further financial implications. Should draft decisions I and III be adopted, the total additional resources required would amount to $490,400, including $360,800 under section 2, "General Assembly affairs and conference services", $96,000 under the above-mentioned section 9 and $33,600 under section 18, "Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific".

48. **The President** invited the Council to consider draft decision I, entitled "International expert group meeting on the Convention on Biological Diversity international regime on access and benefit-sharing and indigenous peoples' human rights".

49. *Draft decision I was adopted.*

50. **Mr. Smith** (United Kingdom) said that the issue in question was of great importance for indigenous people. However, his delegation's support for the decision did not constitute acceptance of the principle that some groups in society should benefit from human rights that were not available to others. With the exception of the right to self-determination, the United Kingdom did not accept the concept of collective human rights in international law.

51. **The President** suggested that the Council should postpone consideration of draft decision II until the theme for the 2007 coordination segment had been decided.

52. *It was so decided.*

53. **The President** invited the Council to turn to draft decision III, entitled "Venue and dates for the sixth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues". If the session were held in New York, programme budget implications would be avoided. He thus took it that the Council wished to amend the draft decision by changing the venue from Bangkok to New York.

54. *Draft decision III was adopted as orally amended.*

55. **The President** invited the Council to consider draft decision IV, entitled "Provisional agenda and documentation for the sixth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues".

56. *Draft decision IV was adopted.*

Follow-up to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/6 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council

57. **Mr. Ruiz Massieu Aguirre** (Mexico) said that although members had agreed on a theme for the coordination segment, they had yet to arrive at a consensus in respect of the themes for the thematic discussion and Annual Ministerial Review. Deferral of the item would allow members to take full account of the new functions of the Council as well as the outcome of high-level substantive discussions.

58. **The President** said that he took it that the Council wished to defer consideration of the focus of the 2007 thematic discussion and theme for the Annual Ministerial Review to its 2007 organizational session.

59. *It was so decided.*

60. **The President** said that he took it that the Council was, however, ready to adopt the theme "The role of the United Nations system in promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all" for the 2007 coordination segment.

61. *It was so decided.*

Draft decision E/2006/L.40: Contributions of relevant subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, including functional and regional commissions, and the organizations of the United Nations system to the annual ministerial-level substantive review and the Development Cooperation Forum

62. **Mr. Čekuolis** (Lithuania) said that the text had been drafted on the basis of informal consultations.

63. *Draft decision E/2006/L.40 was adopted.*

Social and human rights questions (*continued*)

(h) Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (*continued*)

Recommendations contained in the report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its fifth session (*continued*) (E/2006/43, chap. I, sect. A, draft decision II)

Draft decision II

64. **The President** said that he took it that, in light of the adoption of the theme for the 2007 coordination segment, the Council did not wish to take action on draft decision II.

65. *It was so decided.*

66. **The President** said that he took it that the Council wished to take note of the report.

67. *It was so decided.*

Closure of the resumed substantive session of 2006

68. After an exchange of courtesies in which **Mr. Cabral** (Guinea-Bissau), **Mr. Rosengren** (Observer for Finland), on behalf of the European Union, **Mr. Sow** (Guinea) and **Mr. Le Roux** (South Africa), on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, participated, **the President** declared the session closed.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.